

## Kim, Sabrina

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**From:** Kim, Sabrina  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 10:59 PM  
**To:** Stickney, Matt  
**Cc:** Clow, Brian  
**Subject:** Re: Swabs

Yikes. Thanks for sharing. Should I share these bullets from Steve to the earlier summary I sent to the team?

Since they're considering a stop work - would be helpful to know how significant of a player / supplier ESBE scientific is in Canada. I shall ask PSPC.

Also, just realizing the chart Sabina sent earlier shows a few thousand swabs from ESBE were sent to Indigenous communities via ISC.

Sabrina Kim  
Issues Advisor  
Office of the Prime Minister  
613-795-7803

On Apr 10, 2020, at 10:40 PM, Stickney, Matt <[Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca](mailto:Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca)> wrote:

FYI.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Saini, Sabina (HC/SC)" <[sabina.saini@canada.ca](mailto:sabina.saini@canada.ca)>  
**Date:** April 10, 2020 at 10:35:12 PM EDT  
**To:** "Stickney, Matt" <[Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca](mailto:Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca)>, "Theis, Rick" <[Rick.Theis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca](mailto:Rick.Theis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Swabs

Don't know if you got this but here is some more info.

S.

Sabina Saini  
Chief of Staff/Chef du Cabinet  
Office of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health/Bureau de l'honorable  
Patty Hajdu, ministre de la Santé

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lucas, Stephen (HC/SC)" <[stephen.lucas@canada.ca](mailto:stephen.lucas@canada.ca)>  
**Date:** April 10, 2020 at 10:13:23 PM EDT  
**To:** "Saini, Sabina (HC/SC)" <[sabina.saini@canada.ca](mailto:sabina.saini@canada.ca)>

Cc: "Namiesniowski, Tina (PHAC/ASPC)"

<[tina.namiesniowski@canada.ca](mailto:tina.namiesniowski@canada.ca)>

**Subject: Swabs**

PSPC shared this with their mino.

1. Public Health Agency Canada/National Microbiology Lab selected ESBE Scientific, a well-known, reputable Canadian lab supplier
2. PSPC awarded the contract on PHAC's behalf for the purchase 6.8M swabs
3. The normal gold star swab producers are Copan (Italy) and Puritan (USA), neither are taking immediate orders
4. ESBE Scientific used a Chinese manufacturing plant to produce the swab. This is not a manufacturing plant that ESB deals with regularly but the surge in global demand has forced suppliers to work with new supply chains
5. The first batches of swabs (300,000 swabs) started to arrive in Canada earlier this week
6. The quality of the swab has proven to be inferior potentially creating false negatives or transmitting risk
7. As a next step ESBE will take the next 100,000 swabs from Shanghai (~ 4 days from now with arrival in Canada) for extensive testing. ESBE is evaluating whether to continue or put a stop work order in place
8. I notice when reviewing the flight manifest, over and above GoC order of ESBE swabs, the provinces are also using the same supplier and would likely be encountering similar quality issues.

Stephen Lucas, PhD  
Deputy Minister  
Health Canada